

THE SENTINEL



OFFICIAL SAFETY NEWSLETTER OF CIVIL AIR PATROL

Fatal Vehicle Accident

Early on 20 April, an AZ Wing van departed their state enroute to the Illinois Wing to return their hot air balloon that had been used in Arizona during the winter. The 1999 Ford, 12-passenger, E350, 1-ton van was towing a 10-foot trailer containing the balloon. Three AZ Wing senior members shared the driving as they attempted to drive straight through. The following morning, at approximately 0610, the van crashed on I-44 about seven miles east of Lebanon, MO.

According to the Missouri State Highway Patrol, preliminary indications are that the driver apparently fell asleep at the wheel and woke up when the van was in the median. The driver overcorrected to the right, traveled across the interstate lanes and departed the highway on the right side. The van traveled down a steep embankment and rolled over several times, ejecting one of the passengers, who was fatally injured. Details on whether the ejected passenger was wearing his seat belt have not yet been released by the Highway Patrol. The driver and the other passenger were treated for moderate injuries and released. The Missouri State Highway Patrol and the AZ Wing are investigating this accident.

Facts about drowsy driving

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) conservatively estimates that 100,000 police-reported crashes are the direct result of driver fatigue each year. This results in an estimated 1,550 deaths, 71,000 injuries and \$12.5 billion in monetary losses.

Signs that a driver should stop and rest

- Difficulty focusing, frequent blinking, or heavy eyelids

- Daydreaming; wandering/disconnected thoughts
- Trouble remembering the last few miles driven; missing exits or traffic signs
- Yawning repeatedly or rubbing your eyes
- Trouble keeping your head up
- Drifting from your lane, tailgating, or hitting a shoulder rumble strip
- Feeling restless and irritable

Countermeasures

- Naps - 15 to 20 minutes
- Caffeine - soft drinks, coffee, tea
- Get a good night's sleep
- Plan long trips with a companion-keep each other awake
- Schedule regular stops - every 100 miles or 2 hours
- Avoid alcohol and medications
- Consult with a physician if you suffer frequent daytime sleepiness

Glider Accident In IL Wing

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has confirmed that a glider mishap in the Illinois Wing has met the substantial damage criteria to be an accident. A 1972 SGS-2-33A participating in a flight clinic at Lake Village, IN, landed off-field on 4 April. The glider bounced during landing in a plowed cornfield and the right wingtip dug into the ground, bending the wing aft and breaking a spar. Initial indication is that excessive sink did not allow the glider's return to the airfield. The 79-year old pilot and his 54-year old passenger were not injured. The passenger was on-board the glider as part of his Tow Pilot qualification. This is the fourth aircraft accident of FY04. NTSB and IL Wing are investigating.



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CAP Safety Metrics

	<u>FY03</u>	<u>FY04</u>
Aircraft Accidents	5	4
Aircraft Incidents	38	16
Fatalities	2	3
Vehicle Mishaps	16	4
Bodily Injuries	13	6
Serious Injuries	2	3

101 Critical Days of Summer

"101 Critical Days" is the historically accident-filled period of time between Memorial Day Weekend, which begins 29 May, and Labor Day Weekend, ending 6 September. Summer time, unfortunately, is a time we place ourselves at greatest risk. With long-awaited vacations and weekends filled with CAP activities, we tend to be over-anxious and a little less attentive in our eagerness to enjoy all our carefully planned events. Eagerness and inattention can be a tragic combination. We want the summer of 2004 to be an enjoyable and mishap-free summer, but it requires extra effort from everyone to be especially careful, diligent and safety conscious. Remember, Operational Risk Management (ORM) can work as well at a weekend barbeque as it can at a CAP flight activity. You simply must identify the hazards, assess how risky they are and come up with a plan to minimize or eliminate the risk. So please take the time to examine each situation of each activity and consider the consequences of not making safety a part of every decision.

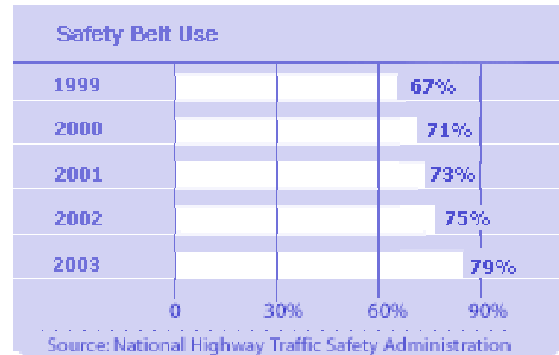
NTSB Final Report

Mocksville, NC - 10 Sep 02

The NTSB has completed their investigation of the NC Wing aircraft accident that involved a C-172P that crashed while doing a touch and go landing at Twin Lakes Airport in Mocksville, NC. The aircraft touched down with about a third of the 2,943' runway remaining and initiated the go phase of the maneuver. The pilot established a nose-high attitude followed by a right descending roll that resulted in a collision with trees. The aircraft came to rest on the ground in a nose low attitude. Both of the pilots were seriously injured. Examination of the engine revealed no pre-impact anomalies. The NTSB found the probable cause to be the pilot's failure to maintain airspeed during the takeoff and climb, which resulted in a stall.

2004 CLICK IT - OR - TICKET

This May, law enforcement agencies will be participating in *Click It or Ticket* campaigns to increase seat belt usage. Some people buckle up for safety. But for many people, it is the threat of the ticket that spurs them to put on a seat belt. It's not just about writing tickets, it's about changing the behavior of would be violators who currently do not buckle up. Here's how it's been working:



So...

What's my motivation to wear these things?

- ☒ **Get to where you're going on time.**
Wearing a seat belt isn't just a good idea, it's the law and many States are conducting heightened enforcement of their seat belt laws.
- ☒ **Hold onto your hard-earned cash.**
Seat belt tickets can mean hefty fines and, in some places, points on your license.
- ☒ **Prevent disabling injuries and scarring.**
Every 15 seconds, someone is injured in a traffic crash. If you're not buckled up, you could be thrown through a window, sent skidding along the pavement or be crushed under a vehicle in a crash.
- ☒ **Live.**
Someone is killed in a crash every 13 minutes. However, seat belts save over 11,000 lives each year, and they can help you maintain control of your car in a crash.



So, Buckle Up Every Trip, Every Time!

Other Safety Meeting Topics

- Drowsy Driving:
<http://www.sleepfoundation.org/activities/daaamain.cfm>
- Go-Arounds - Making the Decision:
<http://www.canyonflying.com/goarounds.html>
- Gippsland GA-8 Airvan Familiarization Course:
<https://ntc.cap.af.mil/ops/dot/school/GA8cfm/index.cfm>
- USCG Boating Safety:
<http://www.uscgboating.org/>